

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18210 191744Z
ACTION EUR-12

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R 191430Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5775

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DEPT PASS DHEW FISCHER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, TGEN, TPHY, UR, US
SUBJECT: RETINITIS PIGNEMTOSA: VISIT OF DR. ELMER BALLANTINE

REF: STATE 290680

1. DR. ELMER BALLANTINE, CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE (NEI), VISITED EMBASSY ON DECEMBER 16 TO BRIEF SCICOUNS ON RESULTS OF SYMPOSIUM IN MOSCOW ON RETINAL DYSTROPHY AND ITS RELATION TO HELMHOLTZ INSTITUTE TREATMENT FOR RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA. BALLANTINE CONFIRMED THAT SOVIETS HAVE APPARENTLY DONE LITTLE OR NO SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF THE HELMHOLTZ TREATMENT, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE MANY YEARS TO COMPLETE BECAUSE OF THE SLOWLY PROGRESSIVE NATURE OF THE DISEASE. DR. BALLANTINE NOTED THAT MANY SOVIET EYE SPECIALISTS AT THE SYMPOSIUM APPEARED TO VIEW THE HELMHOLTZ TREATMENT WITH CONSIDERABLE SCEPTICISM, IN SPITE OF THE MODEST CLAIMS PUT FORWARD BY ITS SUPPORTERS TO THE EFFECT THAT IN SOME CASES THE TREATMENT CAN HALT OR RETARD THE PROGRESSION OF THE DISEASE.

2. DR. BALLANTINE NOTED THAT GEOGRAPHICAL AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION XUMIT# US ABILITY TO
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 18210 191744Z

PARTICIPATE IN ANY SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF HELMHOLTZ TREATMENT, USING US SUBJECTS. DR. BALLANTINE COMMENTED THAT A JOINT STUDY OF THE BIOCHEMICAL ASPECTS OF RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA APPEARED TO BE A MORE PROMISING AVENUE FOR COOPERATION. NEI WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING ACCESS TO SOVIET BANK OF EYES FROM AUTOPSIES, WHICH ARE DONE

MORE EXTENSIVELY IN USSR THAN IN US, TO OBTAIN
SAMPLES OF RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA AFFLICTED EYES
IN WHICH THE DISEASE HAD NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO
PROGRESS VERY FAR.

3. EMBASSY APPRECIATES HEW'S ACTION IN ASKING
DR. BALLANTINE TO CONTACT US. HIS COMMENTS WILL BE
USEFUL TO US IN DEALING WITH THE GROWING NUMBER OF
AMERICANS COMING TO MOSCOW FOR RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA
TREATMENT AT THE HELMHOLTZ INSTITUTE.
TOON

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 19-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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